



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
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8 September 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Subj: ULTRA-WIDEBAND ET DOCKET 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the Technical Director for the Safety and Survivability Office within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, I am writing to express my interest in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio. For the past two fiscal years, Congress has provided funds to Navy to investigate commercial technologies that will notify a ship if an individual becomes a man overboard victim. Identification and location that are required range up to 20 miles direct line of sight. The same technologies are applicable to tracking and monitoring individuals on ships during damage control and firefighting operations. On shore these technologies can be used to enhance security operations. Systems using ultra-wideband technology have demonstrated a significant capability to meet Navy needs in this area, and one contractor is currently funded to demonstrate their system.

The ultra-wideband technologies offer the ability to provide a nearly undetectable communications link for covert operations that are typically required for naval maneuvers. High bandwidth and channelization provided by this technology enhance the ability for several individuals to be identified and tracked, and for position information to be sent to a damage control or security central.

With regard to continuing our efforts with companies with these technologies, I request that the FCC move forward to expeditiously approve the use of ultra-wideband technologies. The FCC should make every attempt to resolve any technical issues in favor of approving this technology so that the benefits can be realized in the military as well as public communities. Approval should be subject to reasonable regulations designed to prevent harmful interference to critical public safety communications systems. Ultra-wideband technology is considered to provide a significant ability to save lives and protect individuals involved in security operations. It is with these concerns in mind that I make this request. If you would like to contact me for further details on our efforts, you may call (202) 685-6855 or email me at crowson.fred@hq.navy.mil.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Fred Crowson
FRED CROWSON

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